United Nations E/CN.6/2017/L.1

Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-first session
13-24 March 2017
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Šejla **Đurbuzović** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its sixty-first session at United Nations Headquarters on 24 March 2016 and from 13 to 24 March 2017. The Commission held _____ meetings (1st to __).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of ____ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Officers of the Commission

3. The following officers were elected at the 1st meeting of the sixty-first session, on 24 March 2016, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its sixty-first session:

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Chair:
Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil)

Vice-Chairs:
Fatmaalzahraa Hassan Abdelaziz Abdelkawy (Egypt)
Jun Saito (Japan)
Andreas Glossner (Germany)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:
Šejla Đurbuzović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 March 2017, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/2017/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;
      (ii) Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: empowerment of indigenous women;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2017/1/Add.1/Rev.2.

E. Documentation

6. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixty-first session is available from www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017/official-documents.

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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-first session
13-24 March 2017
Agenda item 6
Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission

Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

      (i) Priority theme: challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

      (ii) Review theme: participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls

17-04499 (E) 210317

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Report of the Secretary-General on the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the ministerial round tables

(b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat serving as a contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-second session.

United Nations E/CN.6/2017/L.3

Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-first session
13-24 March 2017
Agenda item 3 (c)
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Ecuador:* draft resolution

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General

* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998.

[1] E/CN.6/2017/6.

[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recalling also its resolution 2016/4 of 2 June 2016 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Taking note of the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including as a result of the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights, and arbitrary detention and imprisonment, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, shortages of electricity and fuel, incidents of domestic violence and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where a humanitarian disaster continues to severely affect the situation of women and girls,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement and transfer of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including

[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[5] General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[6] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

access of pregnant women to health-care services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Expressing grave concern about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, condemning acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the tensions and violence over the recent period throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and deploring the loss of innocent civilian life, including among girls and women, as a result of excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupying forces,

Condemning the military conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including hundreds of children, women and elderly persons, as well as the widespread destruction of homes and critical civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law,

Taking note of the report and findings of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,[8] and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Gravely concerned, in particular, by the persisting disastrous humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions in the Gaza Strip, including those resulting from the Israeli military operations in July and August 2014, as well as the long-term negative impact of Israeli military operations from December 2008 to January 2009 and in November 2012, and the continuing imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, consistent with the provisions and obligations under international humanitarian law,

Stressing also the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian

[8] A/HRC/29/52.

aid organizations on the ground, particularly in response to the grave humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip,

Recalling the convening of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families,

Expressing grave concern that Palestinian women and girls continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including, inter alia, unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, extensive use of administrative detention of excessive duration without charge and denial of due process, and noting that women and girls also face gender-specific challenges, including inadequate access to medical care, risks associated with pregnancy and giving birth in prison and sexual harassment,

Reiterating the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of women's equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services, bearing in mind, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[9] and national priorities, in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, in particular for addressing the humanitarian crisis and immense reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip, and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, commends the achievements of the Palestinian Government in constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, as confirmed by international institutions, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. *Calls upon* international donors to fulfil without delay all pledges made on 12 October 2014 at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, in order to expedite the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families;

[9] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

4. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949[11] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

5. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

6. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

7. *Urges* the international community to make renewed efforts aimed at advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty based on clear parameters and with a defined time frame to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

8. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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[10] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

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Commission on the Status of Women
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Agenda item 3 (a) (i)
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

El Salvador, Georgia,* Israel, Kenya, Panama,* Ukraine,* United States of America* and Uruguay: draft resolution

Preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all Member States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,[4]

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[5] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[6] the Beijing Declaration

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[4] Ibid., vols. 1577, 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and General Assembly resolution 66/138, annex.

[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[6] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

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and Platform for Action,[7] the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[8] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[9] and the outcomes of their review conferences,

Recalling the commitment to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10]

Recognizing that violence against women encompasses, inter alia, sexual harassment in the workplace,

Recognizing also that sexual harassment may amount to discrimination on the basis of sex, reflects and reinforces discriminatory social attitudes and gender stereotypes, is an abuse of human rights and an affront to a worker's dignity and prevents women from making a contribution commensurate with their abilities,

Recognizing further that sexual harassment may be committed by both men and women, against both men and women, at any level of a workplace, bearing in mind that in most situations women and girls are the victims of sexual harassment,

Acknowledging that sexual harassment may be committed against girls working in accordance with national legislation and Member States' relevant obligations under international law, as well as girls working under other circumstances, while condemning child labour in all its forms and reaffirming Member States' obligations to protect girls in accordance with international law,

Acknowledging also that sexual harassment in the workplace may occur both in and outside of a formal or informal workplace and can take various forms,

Concerned about the large number of women worldwide who have reported being sexually harassed in their workplace, and concerned also that, owing to underreporting, the actual number may be much greater,

Underscoring that often shame, stigma, lack of information and awareness, fear of reprisals and negative economic consequences, such as, inter alia, loss of livelihood or reduced household income, prevent many women and, as applicable, girls from reporting or acting as witnesses and from seeking redress and justice in cases of sexual harassment in the workplace,

Bearing in mind that sexual harassment in the workplace and the resulting hostile working environment have a negative impact on women in the enjoyment of their rights and equal opportunities at work, including, inter alia, by hindering their ability to remain and advance in the workplace,

Bearing in mind also that sexual harassment in the workplace may have negative physical and mental health consequences for the victims and may negatively affect their families,

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[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[8] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Reaffirming that women play a vital role as agents of development in society, and recognizing, in this context, that sexual harassment in the workplace impedes the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and constrains their ability to positively contribute to development,

Stressing the need to fully engage men and boys, as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace,

Stressing also that employers have the primary responsibility to take measures to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and to facilitate effective action after sexual harassment has occurred by holding perpetrators to account and providing access to remedies and protection for the victims, bearing in mind that victims of sexual harassment may be subject to further discrimination or reprisals,

Stressing further that Member States have the obligation to promote, protect and respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and should exercise due diligence by taking measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and hold to account the perpetrators of sexual harassment in the workplace, and provide for effective access to appropriate remedies for victims,

Highlighting the crucial role that educational and awareness-raising programmes, policies and legislation play in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment against women and girls,

Emphasizing that the lack of, or inadequate, documentation and research on sexual harassment against women and girls, including in and outside of the workplace, impedes efforts to design specific measures, including, where appropriate, policies and legislation to prevent and eliminate this form of violence,

1. *Condemns* sexual harassment in all its forms, especially against women and girls, including in the workplace, and emphasizes the need to take all necessary measures to prevent and eliminate it;

2. *Encourages* Member States to:

(a) Pursue, by effective means, a policy of preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace, with an emphasis on effective legal, preventive and protective measures for women who are victims of sexual harassment in the workplace or who are at risk of sexual harassment in the workplace;

(b) Take all necessary measures to raise awareness regarding the rights of victims of sexual harassment in the workplace and the means of accessing redress and justice, and to facilitate reporting by victims and witnesses;

(c) Take measures to educate children from a young age regarding the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect and that sexual harassment is an abuse of human rights and offends the dignity of all persons;

(d) Cooperate with civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations, and unions, in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment, including in the workplace;

(e) Take measures to encourage employers to take steps in order to prevent and address sexual harassment by their employees in and outside of the workplace;

(f) Promote research and collect and analyse data and statistics, disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant characteristics, in order to develop, review and implement policies and programmes at all levels that contribute to preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report, within existing resources, on preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace to the Commission on the Status of Women for its review of the theme of "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work", using information provided by Member States, United Nations system entities and other relevant stakeholders, including information on the prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace, its causes and effects, inter alia, the impact on women's participation in the workforce, as well as good practices and recommendations.